

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR OILING CANADA GOOSE EGGS

One of the most important methods available to help manage Canada goose populations is egg sterilization. Preventing more geese from being raised will in turn reduce (or at least prevent the increase of) goose damage. Destroying or removing the eggs will reduce the aggression of nesting birds; however, it often stimulates the birds to create a new nest, often hidden in a new location. Applying 100% corn oil on the eggs prevents the eggs from hatching; however, the bird continues to try to incubate to the expected hatching date, thus reducing the potential for re-nesting. Canada geese are unlikely to re-nest if they have been incubating longer than two weeks. Geese that have unsuccessful nests are also more likely to fly elsewhere to socialize with other geese.

Canada Goose nests with eggs are protected under Federal and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) regulations and destruction is illegal except as authorized by a state permit. In addition to obtaining a state permit, registration is required with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) at <https://epermits.fws.gov/eRCGR>. The permit holder must submit an annual report to the USFWS website by October 31 of each year summarizing removal activities including the date, numbers, and location of nests/eggs taken. In addition to the USFWS website report, you will need to complete and return by October 31 the WDNR issued Annual Report that was included with your signed state permit. The following instructions are provided for individuals or institutions holding a valid WDNR permit to destroy the eggs and nests of Canada Geese through oiling.

Canada geese can be very aggressive towards humans when their nests are threatened. Although not equipped with beak or talons capable of serious injury, these birds can use their wings or body to deliver a heavy blow. Consequently, nest visitations might best be accomplished by two people, one to work with the eggs, and the other to ward off attacks from the geese. The person standing guard might carry a "shield", such as a boat oar, umbrella, trash can lid, broom or shovel. There will be no need to strike the bird merely hold the shield between yourself and the bird to prevent physical contact. In addition to a shield, you will need:

- ★ a copy of your state WDNR permit
- ★ a data sheet to record information
- ★ a permanent marker
- ★ 100% corn oil
- ★ a bucket of water
- ★ survey tape to mark the location of the nest

You should always have a copy of the WDNR permit with you to display to authorized persons and to outline conditions under which you are operating. It is vital to maintain good records to help you to keep track of your nests and to prepare the annual report, which is required under your permit.

### EGG OILING

Upon finding a nest, prior to oiling, mark the eggs with a permanent marker so they can be identified as oiled on future visits. To be effective, the corn oil should be applied between the fifth day after the laying of the last egg in a clutch and at least five days prior to

anticipated hatching. To age the eggs, place 1 or 2 eggs in a pail of water to determine the flotation stage using the chart included in these instructions. Eggs at stages 2, 3 and 4 should be placed back in the nest and oiled. Eggs in flotation stages 5 and 6 can be removed immediately and disposed of unless the gosling is pecking through the shell referred to as "pipped". If the egg is pipped it is illegal to destroy the eggs in the nest.

Oil should be applied evenly and any means can be used for application. A hand held spray bottle is usually very effective for spraying the oil on the eggs. Spray the eggs while they are in the nest. The oil will coat the eggs so there is no need to move or turn the eggs. Do not apply oil to anything other than the eggs and do not apply directly to water.

Egg oiling will destroy any bird egg so applicators should identify nontarget bird nests so they are not treated.

Continue on a weekly basis to look for more nests and re-check the nests containing oiled eggs for any untreated eggs that may have been laid. Eggs should be retreated on subsequent visits. Eggs may be removed several days after the expected hatching date; however, this is not required by your permit. Be very careful as these eggs are rotten and under pressure and may explode resulting in contaminating yourself with rotten egg.

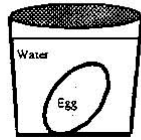
Be sure to return to the USFWS website prior to October 31 to report your activities as well as return the WDNR Annual Report with the number of nests destroyed.

**Your permit does not authorize possession of the eggs by you or by others. They are to be disposed of as detailed in your permit.**

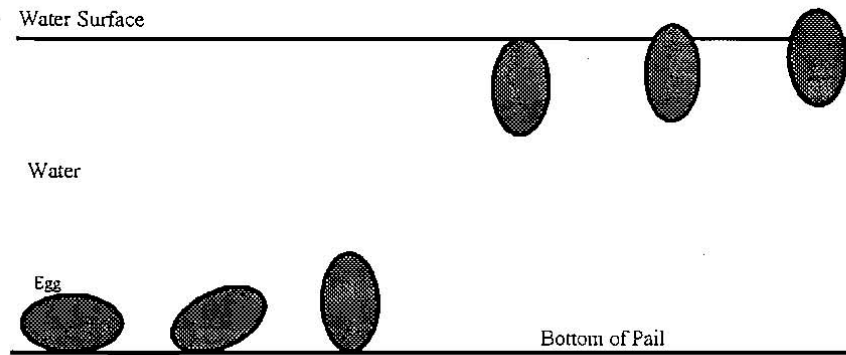
For further information on egg oiling or for egg shaking instructions see the information provided with your permit or contact:

USDA-APHIS  
Wildlife Services  
1201 Storbeck Drive  
Waupun, WI 53963  
Phone: (920) 324-4514

## Egg Floatation Chart for Ageing Canada Goose Embryos



Pail of Water



Flotation Stage	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥
Age of embryo in days	0-3	4-8	9-13	14-18	19-23	24-27
Waiting period (days) before removing eggs	20	15	10	5	0	0